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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/921,238	08/02/2001	Benjamin Mosier	0468FV.044178	9707

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EXAMINER

VUAYAKUMAR, KALLAMBELLA M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1751

DATE MAILED: 10/03/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/921,238

Applicant(s)

MOSIER ET AL.

Examiner

Kallambella Vijayakumar

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 August 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) See Continuation Sheet is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 58-64, 72, 77, 80, 82, 84-86, 94-106 and 108-113 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2, 4, 5, 9, 11-13, 16, 19-25, 32-38, 40, 44, 46-48 and 114 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 19 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Continuation of Disposition of Claims: Claims pending in the application are 2,4,5,9,11-13,16,19-25,32-38,40,44,46-48,58-64,72,77,80,82,84-86,94-106 and 108-114.

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DETAILED ACTION

In view of the new ground, the finality of the rejection of the last office action is withdrawn. Ex-parte prosecution is resumed.

Claims 2, 4-5, 9, 11-12, 13, 16, 19-25, 32-38, 40, 44, 46-48, 58-64, 72, 77, 80, 82, 84-86, 94-106, 108-113 and 114 are pending with the application. Claims 58-64, 72, 77, 80, 82, 84-86, 94-106, 108-113 are withdrawn from consideration.

The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 10/04/2001 has been considered by the examiner.

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 2, 4-5, 9, 11-12, 13, 16, 19-25, 32-38, 40, 44, 46-48 and 114 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Objections

Claim 19 is objected to because of the following informalities: The claim depends on a cancelled claim-1. Appropriate correction is required.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: The temperature in Page-27 should read as 210°C and not as 210F.

Appropriate correction is required.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary.

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Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

1. Claims 2, 4-5, 11, 13, 19-24, 32-33, 37, 38, 40, 44, 46-47 and 114 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Sturwold (US 4,067,817).

The prior art teaches a lubricant composition obtained by the phosphoric acid (0.01-1%) catalyzed transesterification of triglycerides of castor oil <ricinoleic acid> with a polyoxyalkylene glycol <compound containing hydroxyl> in presence of a dicarboxylic acid <second component>. The reaction mixture comprised of 50-84 pts triglyceride, 2-36 pts glycol and 7-48 pts dimer acid and the transesterification was carried out at a temperature of 100-300°C. The compositions set forth in claims 2, 4-5, 11, 13, 19-24, 32, 37, 38, 40, 44 and 46-47 are anticipated because the reacting components, their composition and ratios, and the process conditions of the prior art are identical to that by the applicants (See Specification, Page-27) and identical processing of identical reactant composition will result in identical product, and If the product in the product-by-process claim is the same as the product of the prior art, the claim is unpatentable even though the prior product was made by a different process." In re Thorpe, 777 F.2d 695, 698, 227 USPQ 964, 966 (Fed. Cir. 1985). The glycerol is inherently produced by the acid catalyzed transesterification of ricinoleic triglycerides. The prior art further teaches addition of additives such as wetting agents and mineral oil to impart desired properties that meets the limitation of claims 33-34 (Col-5, Ln 21-35). This further meets the method of creating phosphorus containing composition in claim-114. All the limitations of the instant claims are met.

The reference is anticipatory.

In the alternative that it be insufficient to arrive at the limitations of the instant claims, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to optimize the process/ratio of components with

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reasonable expectation of success because the prior art teaches the varying of the component ratios and the process temperatures.

It is suggested to change the language in claim-114 by replacing the word 'creating' in line-1 with the word 'making' to better reflect the claim clarity.

2. Claims 9, 12, 25, 34-36 and 48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sturwold (US 4,067,817) in view of either Haller (1907) or Klein (US 5,468,405).

The disclosure on the composition and method of making the lubricant by Sturwold as set forth in rejection-1 under 35 USC 102(b)/103(a) is here incorporated.

The prior art fails to teach the use of n-propanol in the transesterification of castor oil, and the addition of specific miscibility enhancing additives and their ratios per the claims.

In the analogous art of ricinoleic acid esters, Hart teaches transesterification of ricinoleic acid with methanol/ethanol/n-propanol/l-butanol in presence of hydrochloric acid (Page-465).

In the analogous art, Klein teaches the lubricant compositions containing dehydrated castor oils mixed with mineral oils, synthetic ester oils of dicarboxylic acids and natural esters such as triglycerides on the amount of 0-50% by wt (Col-2, Ln 36-54).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the prior art teachings and optionally substitute the hydroxyl compound with n-propanol as functional equivalents and/or optionally include esters as additive and further optimize its ratio to benefit from desired properties with reasonable expectation of success because the combined prior art teaching is suggestive of the claimed composition. The presence of the specific compounds in the claims would be obvious because the reacting components, their ratios and the process conditions of the prior art are similar to that by the applicants (See Specification, Page-27) and similar processing of similar reactant composition is expected to result in similar product, and If the product in the product-by-process claim is the same as or obvious from a product of the prior art, the claim is unpatentable even though the prior product was made by a different process." In re Thorpe, 777 F.2d 695, 698, 227 USPQ 964, 966 (Fed. Cir. 1985).

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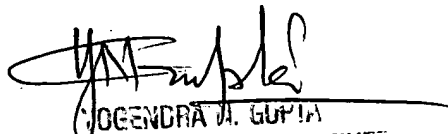
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kallambella Vijayakumar whose telephone number is 571-272-1324. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5.30 Mon-Thu, 8-4.30 Alt Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yogendra Gupta can be reached on 571-272-1316. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

KMV
September 20, 2005.


YOGENDRA M. GUPTA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700